

PENTECOST 2020 Reflection

One of the few live sporting events that has continued throughout the world during the C19 lockdown is horseracing! There are a variety of names applied to different race horses such as *mud runners*, *stayers* or *sprinters*. It is a mistake to think that any horse consistently excels in every racing situation although some punters would like to know such a horse! Just like people horses have their distinctive limitations and strengths.

The great feast of *Pentecost* that centers upon the Holy Spirit ranks only behind Easter and Christmas in significance.

When applied to people it's of value to remember that the gifts of the Holy Spirit can't readily change a poet into an economist! Rather the Holy Spirit is there to inspire people to improve their gifts to then better center, control and clarify their invisible gifts. When applied to the members of the early Church it was the Spirit that probably redirected and modified the interior wild fire of Paul of Tarsus to then be such an effective teacher/writer. This same Spirit probably strengthened and stabilized the untapped leadership skills of Peter the apostle to be such an inspiring and powerful leader.

The Holy Spirit operates by connecting and strengthening our existing distinctive natural abilities. A simple and great prayer that sums up this reality comes from the popular 1970's musical *Godspell* is; "*Help me to see things more clearly, to love God more dearly and to follow Jesus more nearly.*" Fr Martin R Maunsell